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This is not saying that the author is wrong in his contentions, but that he has overlooked some very important matters and failed to explain the attitude of men, who, like H. A. Wise in 1855, promised their hearers that negroes would sell for \$5000 each if Kansas were made a slave state—men who were very popular in Virginia then and whose memories are still green throughout the South. The book is too much of a defense to be final or convincing.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

John Brown. By W. E. BURGHARDT DU BOIS, Ph.D., Professor of Sociology, Atlanta University. [American Crisis Biographies.] (Philadelphia: George W. Jacobs and Company. 1909. Pp. 406.)

A NEW and shorter "Life of John Brown" which emphasized the deeds of its hero without dwelling too much upon the great cause has been needed, and this work from an eminent negro educator fills this want to some extent. Hitherto it has been impossible to treat the leader of the raid on Harper's Ferry except as a saint doing God's work or as the vilest of criminals. Victor Hugo compared him to Jesus of Nazareth while Carlyle accounted him only a mischief-maker; Robert E. Lee characteristically passed judgment upon him as "Captain John Brown". Of course Professor Du Bois could not be expected to speak as any of these—a negro judging the most ardent friend of his race. Devotion to the subject of his investigation, hero-worship, perhaps sensationalism, are the terms which most aptly describe the style of this new Life. This may be seen in the chapter headings: the Vision of the Damned, the Swamp of the Swan, the Black Phalanx, the Great Black Way, etc. In addition, each chapter begins with a quotation from the Bible, some of which run: "Remember them that are in bonds as bound with them", "And his fellow answered and said, This is nothing else save the sword of Gideon the son of Joash, a man of Israel."

Aside from this enthusiastic approval, there is much that commends the book. It is an abbreviation of Sanborn's rather tedious work and it presents the facts of Brown's career though in a loose and unconvincing manner. A considerable part of the total space is devoted to the development of the man, his restless roving from place to place, seeking apparently some sudden turn of fortune which should reveal him to the eyes of the world. The Kansas tangle and the bloody work at Osawatomie are treated fairly well. But the main theme is of course Harper's Ferry which is seen simply as the work of God in human hands, as the first battle of the righteous North against the wicked South.

One is surprised, however, to find the author of *The Suppression of the African Slave Trade* stating (p. 84) that the runaway slaves of Georgia founded a state in Florida to overthrow which cost the United States \$20,000,000, or (p. 85) that Toussaint had given Louisiana to

America (the United States). And it is amusing to note with what emphasis Professor Du Bois relates (p. 246) that a certain negro leader was presented to Emperor Faustin I. of Haiti! These and other similar passages indicate a biased judgment which causes the reader to doubt the value of certain statements about the unfair decisions of the judge who tried Brown, or of the assertion that the South was determined that "no American of Negro blood shall ever come into the full freedom of modern culture."

However, the book is worth while; it is a brief if somewhat inaccurate story of John Brown and his work; it gives to the old Puritan a background and social environment which one likes to have in convenient form; and the account is well written, which cannot be said of all our historical works. Finally, one likes also to know what an eminent and representative negro thinks of the man who so willingly and persistently gave his life to the great cause of emancipation.

WILLIAM E. DODD.

The Correspondence of Jonathan Worth. Collected and Edited by J. G. DE ROULHAC HAMILTON, Ph.D., Alumni Professor of History in the University of North Carolina. In two volumes. [Publications of the North Carolina Historical Commission.] (Raleigh: Edwards and Broughton Printing Company. 1909. Pp. 1313.)

JONATHAN WORTH, who was destined to be an important official in North Carolina during the Civil War and in Reconstruction, was born in Guilford County, a part of that Quaker community which stoutly opposed Secession and made itself a centre of resistance to the Democratic party both before and after the war. He was several times elected to the legislature before the war, in 1862 he was elected state treasurer, and in 1865 he became governor of the state, holding the position until the end of 1868. His letters are very numerous in this important period. They also deal with the political conditions in North Carolina in the decade before the Civil War. In politics Worth was a Whig, always opposed to the extreme Democracy, and going into the Know-Nothing organization when the cause of the Whigs seemed lost. He opposed Secession until it was a reality, and then preferred to serve the new government in a civil rather than a military capacity. He lived at the state capital from his assumption of the office of treasurer until the end of his governorship, a period of six years, and during this time had the best opportunity to know the inside phases of the state's business. His letters—there are more than nine hundred in these years—are marked by a lack of reserve and a directness of utterance which make them both pleasant reading and valuable historical sources. There are also two hundred and fifty letters written by important personages to Worth or to other men during this period. Altogether it is a most valuable contribution to the documentary history of the South.